


**Product of the Month**

## LOCKING SYSTEM TRENDS: FROM RETROFITS IN HISTORICAL BLDGS. TO GLASS DOORS & ELEVATORS

# Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies: Schlage Wireless access products—cost effective solutions

**FORESTVILLE, CT** If wireless solutions are not on your radar for access control installations, it's time to take notice of this growing trend in physical security. Such solutions give building owners and occupants the benefits of a wired system, without the cost of a hardwired system. When retrofitting older buildings with new access control systems, wireless systems may literally be the only viable option available. Wireless solutions are now one of the fastest growing alternatives in access control.

Schlage Wireless access locks from Ingersoll Rand Security Technologies are not just for doors—wireless solutions exist for elevators, exit devices, gates and electric strikes. More importantly, wireless systems connect to any of today's access control systems. That means users don't have to replace their existing panel, keys or ID credentials. Such systems are an attractive alternative to off-line, standalone locking systems, because they offer a real-time solution that's com-



Wireless in new construction at University of New Hampshire dorm building

patible with all brands of access control installations, it's time to take notice of this growing trend in physical security. Such solutions give building owners and occupants the benefits of a wired system, without the cost of a hardwired system. When retrofitting older buildings with new access control systems, wireless systems may literally be the only viable option available. Wireless solutions are now one of the fastest growing alternatives in access control.

Wireless access control is robust. Advanced transmitters and high sensitivity receivers use high frequencies to send the signal throughout an area. This method combined with spread spectrum technology, which sends the same data over many frequencies simultaneously, makes wireless very reliable.

Wireless locking systems provide the same online, real-time capabilities as wired systems and are compatible with most brands of access control panels. Access privilege changes and audit records are available at the central control terminal, all from a common database, which simplifies data entry and management. This also eliminates the need to go door to door to upload changes and download records making wireless locksets a good alternative to off-line, standalone locking systems.

For outdoor applications, like vehicle and pedestrian gate access, wireless links can bridge up to 1,000 ft., eliminating costly trenching. Wireless systems are ideal for garages, parking lots, airports, utility companies and military bases. They are especially cost effective for controlling gates around a facility. Even more impressive—optional directional or gain antennae are available for still longer distances, such as the installation at a Middle East oil field where gates are controlled about 4,000 ft. away.

Wireless, portable readers also provide a quick and easy way to validate credentials for manned applications like checkpoint access, construction zone access, bus loading, perimeter expansion, mustering, and special event attendance. Simply take the wireless portable reader to the temporary location, and have card holders present their credentials.

### In Summary

The value proposition for implementing wireless systems in a wide variety of networked openings is compelling. Real-life installations prove that a wireless solution can have a substantially lower installed cost than its wired alternative. What's more, wireless systems use less hardware and install between five to ten times faster. Even in situations that might once have seemed impossible, retrofitting electronic access control systems is now made easy and affordable with wireless solutions.



Office application of wireless locking using proximity card

patible with all brands of access control panels.

In today's world, wireless access offers the simple solution for access control in commercial buildings such as corporate facilities. Wireless access is already installed in many schools and universities, healthcare institutions and airports.

### When Wireless Makes Sense

Wireless solutions seamlessly integrate into the access control panel, eliminating wire between the lock and the access control panel and providing a complete solution at each opening.

Truly, wireless systems could be applied anywhere a lock is installed. But there are certain applications that lend themselves particularly



Modular design wireless locking device is architecturally pleasing

well to wireless. Older buildings that would be difficult or impossible to hardwire come to mind. Whether they are installed in new modern buildings or historical landmarks, however, wireless locking systems preserve the integrity of the architectural design. Another plus—potential asbestos issues are avoided entirely.

Elevators are another prime candidate for wireless systems. Traveling cables are routinely included at the time on installation, yet they

are often ill equipped to reliably transport credential data from the cab to the elevator controller. Elevator shafts are harsh electrical environments and are often the source of data corrupting noise that becomes induced onto the card reader data lines. This causes inconsistent performance, which often gets worse over time as cable shielding decays due to continual movement.

Conversely, wireless solutions eliminate the need for the data lines in elevators up to 1000 ft. In fact, they thrive in this environment and provide consistent, reliable data transport that doesn't wear out. With traveling cable installation costs ranging from \$2,600 to \$13,000 or more per cab, wireless alternatives can save thousands of dollars per elevator.

System cost is reduced by eliminating wiring from the access control panel to a door up to 200 ft. away in typical building construction, or up to 4000 ft. line of sight. Installing conduit or wire molding and pulling wire down the hallways is no longer required, making these products a great fit for historical and architecturally significant buildings.

While wireless locksets work equally well on wood and metal doors, both interior and exterior, there are several other wireless applications as well. These include glass, monitored and scheduled doors, gates, elevators and portable solutions. Wireless does not need